

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Mehmet C. OZ, et al.

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filed: to be assigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CIRCULATORY VALVE REPAIR

December 22, 2000

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R :

Prior to examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, please insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

--This application is a continuation of co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/254,111, filed February 15, 1999, which is a National Phase of co-pending, commonly assigned PCT patent application No. PCT/US98/13240, filed June 25, 1998, which corresponds to U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/051,078, filed June 27, 1997, now abandoned.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 to 6, and cancel Claims 17 to 28 without prejudice.

1. (Amended) An apparatus for the repair of a cardiovascular valve having leaflets comprising a grasper capable of grabbing and coapting the leaflets of the valve, wherein the apparatus is adapted to be introduced to the valve through a controlled entry bleeding site in a wall of the heart or through an artery or a vein.

2. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is a cardiac valve.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is a mitral heart valve.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3, [where] wherein the [patient] valve suffers from mitral regurgitation.

5. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, [where] wherein the valve to be repaired is an aortic valve.

6. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the [patient] valve suffers from aortic insufficiency.

7. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, which comprises a coaptor to coapt the valve leaflets with a fastener.

8. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper has a distal end comprising a multiplicity of jaws which are freely movable about a joint to permit a range of motion of said jaws when the apparatus is manipulated by an operator.

9. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper end is removable from the apparatus.

10. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the grasper distal end is disposable.

11. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the coaptor is adjunctive to, and capable of operating in concert with, the grasper distal end.

12. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the coaptor is separate from the grasper distal end.

13. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, which can be inserted percutaneously.

14. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper is capable of adjusting the leaflets of the valve to obtain optimal coaptation.

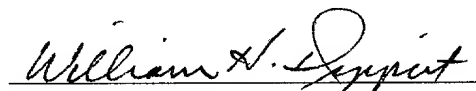
15. (As filed) The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the jaws of the grasper can be independently manipulated to ensure optimal valve leaflet apposition.

16. (As filed) An apparatus for the repair of a cardiovascular valve, comprising a grasper having two jaws each having a closure member removably attached thereto wherein each closure member has a proximal end and the grasper also comprises a positioning member that is capable of positioning a binding member around the closure member proximal ends to secure the closure members together to coapt leaflets of the cardiovascular valve.

REMARKS

Consideration and allowance of all the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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